

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

EUR-08 PRS-01 /040 W

----- 040366

R 080920Z OCT 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4527

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1900

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:HSGDS TAGS PINT CH

SUBJECT: CHOU EN-LAI'S HEALTH

REF: HONG KONG 11917 (NOTAL)

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TITSTIKOV TOLD ME OCTOBER 6 THAT CHOU EN-LAI WAS OPERATED ON SOMETIME BETWEEN SEPT 20 AND SEPT 23. TOLSTIKOV APPEARED TOTALLY CONFIDENT OF HIS INFORMATION BUT HE COULD NOT, OR WOULD NOT, ADD ANYTHING ABOUT THE NATURE OR OUTCOME OF THE OPERATION.

2. YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTRY NUMBER TWO LAZAR MOSJOV-- VISITING THE PRC AS PART OF BIJEDIC'S ENTOURAGE--TOLD ME THE NEXT DAY THAT HE BELIEVED CHOU HAD HAD A VERY SERIOUS OPERATION AND THAT HIS CONDITION WAS FATAL. WHEN I PRESSED HIM ON THIS, HE ADMITTED THAT THE CHINESE HAD NOT TOLD HIM THIS ALTHOUGH THEY HAD SAID CHOU WAS IN THE HOSPITAL AND REQUIRED SERIOUS MEDICAL ATTENTION.

3. LOCAL PRESS SOURCES TELL US JAPANESE CORRESPONDENT'S STORY (PERHAPS THE SOURCE OF THE BELGRADE REPORT CITED REFTEL) THAT BIJEDIC HAD MET WITH CHOU
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WAS ERRONEOUS. AS OF MID-AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 8,

BIJEDIC HAD NOT SEEN EITHER CHOU OR MAO ALTHOUGH THE
YUGOSLAVS ARE CONFIDENT THAT A MEETING WITH MAO
WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE BIJEDIC LEAVES CHINA.
BUSH

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